

The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

September 3, 2025

Volume 16, Issue 7

News from Meeting House Hill

To the church of Jesus Christ:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, and the grace of our Lord Jesus, which makes all things new, guard your hearts and minds in a spirit of joy and love, now and always!

You're probably dreading this from me.

"Oh God! Not another newsletter from Max! He's going to write another five pager with lists of tasks which he wants us to do!" As Jesus says, "Be not afraid!"

Not so! I pretty much said everything I have to say. Now the task is to decide if we want to do this work and then to figure out the workflow: when will we address each topic, in which order, and who feels called to do which task. The work I outlined doesn't have to happen overnight, or even next year. It will, eventually, have to happen.

So, we will discuss as we go along, and I will continue to push that we begin. I see this as a leadership gift I can give to church in this last third of my time as your pastor, helping you build a vibrant and sustainable church for the next generation.

On another note, Kayla and I decided that spending a season preaching about our church's covenant would be a good use of worship time this Fall. Our reasoning is simple: our covenant is our determinative document, a list of our guiding principles, the glue that holds us together. While the vast majority of us are aware that we have a covenant, and some of us even have a favorite catch phrase (the part about "being kindly affectioned one unto another"), I doubt any of us know it by heart. I certainly cannot recite it and I have said it more than probably anyone who attends regularly. More importantly, what does it mean? And how do we put ideas into action?

That's what Kayla and I will be preaching in September and October. Obviously, few if any of you will be there for all 8+ Sundays to get a complete overview, but if you catch one or two Sundays, your appreciation for the gift that our church is to each of us and all of us will, I think, be enhanced.

And on one final note, this Fall I will begin offering a worship service one Sunday a month to the folks at New Pond Village in Walpole. Several of our members have retired there. With the enthusiasm

LOOKING AHEAD

Welcome Back Sunday
September 7 at 10:00 AM
Choir resumes at 9 AM
Sunday School begins
Teddy Bear Room begins
for our little ones

Middle School Youth Group
at 5:00 PM
Pilgrim Church

High School Youth Group
at 7:00 PM

Prayer Chapel (Zoom)
Resumes on September 10
Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:00 PM
Zoom link on website calendar

Wonder Wednesdays at TDC
Chickering & Pine Hill
Half Days
Begins September 17 at 11:45 AM

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, September 27
9 AM – 2 PM

Deacons Welcome Gathering
Sunday, September 28, 11 AM

The best way to reach Max is
to call his cell phone:
508-982-0422.

Kayla: 508-269-8406

See inside calendar for more details.



THE DOVER CHURCH • P.O. Box 305, Dover, MA 02030 • Tel: 508-785-0957

admin@thedoverchurch.org • www.thedoverchurch.org

the Rev'd Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead, *Senior Pastor* • max@thedoverchurch.org

the Rev'd Kayla Edstrom, *Associate Pastor* • kayla@thedoverchurch.org

An Open and Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ.



our service at Fox Hill Village has generated, I am looking forward to this gift from our church to the larger community.

In faith, hope and love,
Max
By the grace of our Lord
(One of) your pastor(s)

Upcoming Worship Services

We hope you will join us this month for worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Join us on **Welcome Back Sunday, September 7!** Start your September with joy, connection, and community. Whether you're returning or brand new, we're excited to welcome you back! Join us for a special service that marks the beginning of a new program year at The Dover Church.

If you cannot join us in person, we hope you will join us virtually. Use this link to access the YouTube link, worship bulletin, and music: <https://thedoverchurch.org/worship/online/>.

Monthly Services at Living Communities

Fox Hill Village Bus to The Dover Church

This month, we're providing transportation for Fox Hill Village residents to attend worship at The Dover Church on Sunday, September 14. Please check with the front desk for departure time. All are welcome to stay for Coffee Hour following the service!

Worship at Fox Hill Village

Max will lead a traditional Protestant worship service at Fox Hill Village on **Sunday, Sep-**

tember 28 at 1:00 PM. Residents are warmly invited to attend. Please ask at the front desk for the meeting location.

New Monthly Worship at New Pond Village

We're excited to begin a new monthly service at New Pond Village! The first worship service will be held on **Sunday, September 21 at 1:00 PM.** If you are a resident, we hope you'll join us for this special time of worship and fellowship.

From the Deacons

Curious What It's Like to Be an Usher?
Come See on Sunday, September 28

Who are the first friends you see on Sunday morning – greeting you with a big smile, a happy attitude, and a helping hand? It's our Welcoming Ushers and the Deacon on Duty!

If you've ever thought about helping out now and then, come to a short Welcome Gathering in the Sanctuary after

worship on **Sunday, September 28th.** The Deacons will be there to share what it's all about – no pressure, just friendly faces and helpful info.



Helping out on Sunday mornings

We invite you to volunteer on Sunday mornings! Are you able to usher, serve as liturgist, or be a scripture reader? Would you like to grab a friend and host our coffee hour? If you feel led to serve in any of these areas, please let Martha know or sign up online through the link in the e-News or this QR code to help.



Music Ministry News

As always, The Dover Church choir is welcoming new members, so if you are interested, please contact me either right after church (I'm always at coffee hour) or via email at daniel@thedoverchurch.org. We rehearse Sunday mornings at 9am, so if you're coming to church and

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like to sing, you should consider joining this wonderful way to make our worship services beautiful!



Message from Dan and Rachel

From Dan

Since starting at The Dover Church this past January, my life has been a bit of a whirlwind, mostly due to the revelation that my wife, Rachel, and I are expecting our first child this month. As many of you know by now, Rachel's pregnancy has been about as smooth and regular as we could hope, thankfully, but the changes in our lives are still significant. In the midst of all of this change, the community of The Dover Church has been so wonderfully supportive of us that I have been truly overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity.

I knew when I was interviewing at the Church this past autumn that this community was special, but I did not expect such a warm culture of welcome and acceptance.

Rachel and I are truly grateful. And, of course, a special word of thanks goes to our associate pastor, Kayla Edstrom, and Laury Hunt for throwing us such a lovely baby shower earlier this past month! Again, "overwhelmed" is the word that keeps coming to my mind, but in the best possible ways.



Looking forward to this autumn, the music ministry at The Dover Church is planning some exciting events. While much of what we are planning is still taking shape, I can share that paperless song-leading will make more appearances in worship, particularly in the form of canons, and the Music Sunday during Advent will be something special this year: we are planning to put on a Bach cantata, featuring our wonderful section leaders! Stay tuned for more precise details!

With much gratitude,
Dan

From Rachel

Dear Dover Church Family,

Thank you so much for putting together a beautiful baby shower for us! We had a lot of fun, and we feel so completely loved and supported.

We can't wait to introduce you all to Baby Reid this fall! Thank you for the lovely gifts: diapers, books, toys, clothes, gift cards, and many other useful items as we prepare our home for baby's arrival. We've especially loved reading through the blessings and cards that you've written for us.



Thank you for your continued prayers as the countdown continues!

Love,

Dan and Rachel Reid

Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

Men's Spiritual Friendship Group

October 10 at 7 AM

The Men's Spiritual Friendship Group meets one Friday each month at 7:00 AM in Kraft Hall. The men enjoy breakfast together while engaging in meaningful conversation and reflection. Max will send a text with the date and a short reading ahead of time so you can come prepared.

The next gathering will be on Friday, October 10. If you'd like to join the group or receive the monthly text, please contact Max at: Max@thedoverchurch.org.

Women's Spiritual Friendship Group

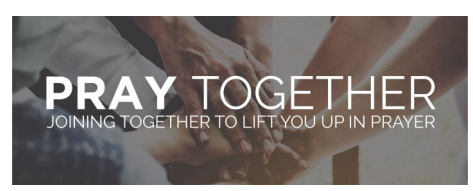
September 24, 9:15 AM

Join our Women's Spiritual Friendship Group on September 24 at 9:15 AM. After a lively year exploring the "bad women" of the Bible, this fall we'll be journeying together through [Barbara J Essex's Bad Boys of the Bible: Exploring Men of Questionable Virtue](#). We're going to start in September with Adam. Kayla will share a reading a couple of weeks before the meeting, so you can

fully participate without having the book. Mark your calendars for our fall meetings:

- **September 24th, 9:15:** Adam: "But It's Not My Fault!"
- **October 15th, 9:15:** Maybe Cain: "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"
- **November 19th, 9:15:** Abraham: "It's My World!"
- **December 17th, 9:15:** Christmas Celebration & Fellowship!

Reach out to Kayla or Leslie Decker for more information. All are welcome!



Prayer Chapel

**Resumes on September 10
Wednesdays 12:30 PM on Zoom**

Looking for a way to connect with new and old friends? Wanting to build some time for your spirit into your daily routine? There are so many reasons to take part in TDC's zoom prayer chapel, which will continue meeting on zoom on **Wednesdays 12:30 to 1:00 PM.**



Take time to check in with your church family, share joys and sorrows, and be in prayer together. You can find the zoom link on the website public calendar, or scan the QR code with your phone.

Sunday School News

Sunday School is Back!

We're kicking off Sunday School with a bang on **Welcome Back Sunday, September 7th!**

Following the sharing of peace during worship, children will be invited to head downstairs to explore their classrooms, meet their teachers, and connect with new and familiar faces. Our Teddy Bear Room will be open from 9:30-11:00 AM for our youngest members.

This year, we're excited to introduce a rotational curriculum model to our Sunday School programming. Each unit of learning will begin with the introduction of a Bible story or theme. Then, over the following weeks, students will rotate through interactive workshops that include dramatic storytelling, art, and science to bring the story to life in a dynamic and hands-on way.

This Rotation Station model will help children

of all learning styles and abilities connect with their faith in a personal, memorable way. Whether your child learns best by listening, creating, moving, or exploring, there's something for everyone.

We can't wait to grow and learn together this year. All are welcome – come join us as we explore the stories of our faith in meaningful and exciting new ways!

Please register your children on our website for the 2025-2026 year program so we are ready to welcome your children:

<https://thedoverchurch.org/children-youth/sunday-school/> or use the following QR code:



Upcoming Sunday School Dates:

September: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
October: 5th, **12th (No Sunday School)**, 19th, 26th



Volunteer for Sunday School!

We're looking for enthusiastic teachers and helpers to join our Sunday School Team! If you're in Grade 8-12, this is a great opportunity to grow in faith, build friendships, and have fun while helping younger kids learn about God's love.

Whether you're interested in teaching or just lending a hand, we'd love to have you on board! Reach out to martha@thedoverchurch.org if you're interested or have any questions.

Let's make Sunday mornings meaningful – together!

Summer VBS Wrap-Up: True North

What an incredible week we had at True North Vacation Bible School – the ultimate Alaskan adventure! With a full house of excited campers and an amazing team of teen helpers, the church was alive with singing, dancing, Bible stories, and games



as our explorers learned to follow Jesus as their True North.

Thank you to every explorer, volunteer, and family who made this week so special. Your energy, support, and faith helped bring this adventure to life! We're already counting down to next summer's VBS: Rainforest Falls! Stay tuned for dates and registration – and don't forget to register early to guarantee your spot!



Wonder Wednesdays at TDC

We're excited to announce our second year of Wonder Wednesdays at TDC! Wonder Wednesdays is an **after school program for elementary students, K-5, on Chickering & Pine Hill half days**. The program will run from 11:45 to 2:15 and will be a fun faith formation experience focused on the goodness of creation, the call to serve our neighbors, and the never ending love God has for each of us.

It's our hope that this program will make families' lives easier as many have to scramble to piece together childcare and entertainment on half days. We also hope that this can be a fruitful opportunity for faith formation, especially as traditional Sunday morning Sunday School does not work for so many of our family schedules.

At each session of Wonder Wednesday we'll share lunch and snack, explore Bible stories, make music, play games, get crafty and creative, and run around outside. We'll try out science experiments, get messy, and travel back in time to immerse ourselves in the world of ancient Israel through story, food, crafts, and more. We were delighted to welcome over 30 children into our inaugural year of Wonder Wednesday in 2024-25, and we can't wait to do it again!

Our Fall 2025 Semester, themed "Bible Heroes: Royalty" meets 9/17, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5. Students must register for each semester in its entirety as



morning Sunday School does not work for so many of our family schedules.



lessons will build on each other. The fee for the program is \$30 per session (so \$120 for the Fall) to cover the costs of materials and food. Scholarship assistance is available for any family who needs it. You can use the QR code to register. Please reach out to Kayla with any questions or to register. Friends new to TDC are most welcome!

Confirmation Class

TDC is excited to be offering Confirmation Class for students in 8th grade and up. Our class will begin meeting in December in preparation for Confirmation Sunday on June 7th.

During Confirmation, we invite our young people into a time of discernment about what faith/church/God means to them and in their lives and we recognize their transition into adult members of our community, who can vote and serve in leadership like any other adult.

During our time together - including Sunday evening meetings and a couple of retreats, our confirmands are not expected to memorize a bunch of ideas or list off points of theological doctrine. They aren't told what they can or cannot believe, and they aren't expected to have everything figured out. We craft our Confirmation program to be an opportunity for reflection, transformation, and connection, and we update and adapt yearly, hoping to continue meeting young people wherever they are on their faith walks.

Our aim for Confirmation class is to come alongside our young people and encourage them in building lives of lifelong spiritual commitment, curiosity, and growth. If you would like to learn more about the class or get on our class roster, please contact Kayla (kayla@thedoverchurch.org).



Middle School and Senior High Youth Groups

We are delighted to be continuing our Middle School and Senior High Youth Groups collaboration with Pilgrim Church in Sherborn! Teaming up has allowed us a more robust pool of adult support and a larger pool of peers for our students. Pilgrim Church's Christian Education Director, Victo-

ria Gaisford, will continue to take the lead on **Middle School Youth Group, open to 6th and 7th graders** which will meet **two Sundays a month** at Pilgrim Church (25 South Main Street, Sherborn). Our **Senior High Youth Group, open to all young people in 8th through 12th grade**, will meet out of Kraft Hall **most Sunday nights, 7-8:30pm**, and be led by Kayla and Martha. Please reach out if you would like to be added to the email list to receive more information!



Service with the Senior High Youth Group

This year our SHYG is continuing with its commitment to community service, taking on a handful of new projects and partnerships. Whether you are a teen looking to give back to the community, or an adult wanting a way to get involved, **we have a role for you!** There will be more information as opportunities approach, but here is an at-a-glance look at what **service opportunities** are on the docket for this fall:

September

- 21: Care Packages for College Kids

October

- 19: Intergenerational Dinner @ TDC
- 26: MATE Meeting

November

- 2: City Reach Donation Sorting & Games
- 9: Miracle on Main St at Pilgrim Church, 11-1
- 16: Thanksgiving Dinner & MBK Gift Planning
- 21 & 22: City Reach Mission Trip with common cathedral

December

- 7: MBK Wrapping
- 14: MATE Meeting

Care Packages with the SHYG - Names & Donations Needed

On September 21st, the Senior High Youth Group will be assembling care packages to send to our church's college students, especially freshman and sophomore students as they settle into campus. If you have a student that you would like to receive a care package, please send their name and school address to Kayla (kayla@thedoverchurch.org). We are also soliciting donations of cards, candies, snacks, or funds to help make this beloved tradition happen! Stay tuned for more!

Nominate a student to receive a care package:



Donate cards, snacks or funds for care packages:



Intergenerational Dinner Church Sunday, September 28

Our Youth Group, in partnership with a regional youth ministry group called New England Glow, will be leading an intergenerational dinner church on September 28th. This laid-back gathering will feature a pot-luck style meal, gently guided conversation, music, and communion. Dinner Church is designed to welcome those who often feel excluded from more traditional church settings, including teenagers, families with young children, and members of the LGBTQ community. Mark your calendars and let Kayla know if you're planning to come (kayla@thedoverchurch.org). We hope to see you there!

TDC's Intergenerational Dinner on 10/19

On October 19, our Youth Group will host an intergenerational dinner to bring together our teens and the elder members of the community. This is always a favorite tradition, where new connections are made and wisdom is shared all over delicious food.

All elder members are invited, and just asked to RSVP to Kayla so we can plan for numbers. Our youth groupers will provide the food and drink (kayla@thedoverchurch.org).

Dinner will take place from 6:15-7:30 in Kraft Hall. Students are asked to arrive at 5:45 and be ready to stay to help with clean-up after 7:30.

Carpooling can be arranged for those who would appreciate a ride. Hope to see you there!



Mission In Action: Serving Others

Diaper Drive for A Place to Turn

In honor of **National Diaper Need Awareness Week**, the Mission in Action committee is once again collecting disposable diapers of all sizes and baby wipes between September 28-October 19 to support A Place to Turn’s Diaper Project.

APTT provides Metrowest families in financial distress with up to one week of diapers every 30 days to keep their babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy.

Donations may be dropped off at the collection bin placed at the church’s admin wing door. Most requested diaper sizes are for sizes 4, 5, and 6. (Note: Partially used boxes of new diapers are fine to donate!)

Family Promise Metrowest Hosting Week September 21-25

The Dover Church and our hosting partner St. Mary’s Church of Holliston are scheduled to help FPM’s homeless shelter families in residence during this time period by purchasing and delivering requested groceries on Mon. Sept 22nd as well as preparing and delivering dinners on Tues. Sept. 23 and Thurs. Sept. 25. Please contact Peggy Cross at peggyfcross@gmail.com or (508) 479-1432 if you are interested in participating in this effort.



TDC Summer Mission in Action...in the Kitchen Women’s Lunch Place (Summer 2025)

The Women’s Lunch Place, a daytime shelter and advocacy center in Boston, has dedicated itself to helping women experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty for over 40 years.

The Dover Church has been a longtime mission partner of this remarkable organization, first in its earliest years by sending in dozens of hot meals each month prepared by members of our congregation. In later years we’ve provided financial support and had several successful winter donation drives, but until this past summer it’s primarily been an “arm’s length” partnership (with the notable exception of Max Olmstead twice going the distance in the Boston



Marathon as a sponsored WLP runner).

On designated dates in June, July and August, volunteers representing The Dover Church donned aprons and baseball hats or hairnets for a first-hand culinary service experience at the Women’s Lunch Place. As meal program assistants, the volunteers helped kitchen staff with food preparation, serving a nutritious, delicious lunch and take-out meals to hundreds of guests. Participants included church staff and congregation members as well as family members and office co-workers. All agreed it was an amazing, energizing opportunity to interact with the dedicated WLP staff and the many women they so respectfully serve.



The Mission in Action committee is interested in organizing additional lunch prep volunteer days in the coming year. Please reach out to Peggy Cross or Toni Richards if you’d be interested in volunteering with us!

Fellowship Opportunities

Tea and Check In Thursdays at 3:00 PM

This is a fun way to check in with your fellow members. Come relax, have a cup of tea and cookies and bring your parish news. After a summer break, we will resume meeting on **Thursday, September 11**. We meet in the church library.

Blood Drive

Saturday, September 28 9 am – 2 pm

All Are Invited to Help Save Lives

Appointments are strongly encouraged to ensure a smooth and timely donation process. There are three easy ways to schedule your donation:

- Call: 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

- Visit: RedCrossBlood.org code: DOVER



Thank You to Our Amazing VBS Team!



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>(This calendar receives many updates after publication. The most up-to-date calendar is the electronic one on our website: www.thedoverchurch.org/calendar.)</i></p> <p><u>* WORSHIP STARTS AT 10 AM *</u></p>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 WELCOME BACK! 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 11:30 Wedding Vow Renewal 5:00 PM MSYG 7:00PM HSYG	8	9 7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	10 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom) 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting	11 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	12	13
14 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship with Fox Hill Guests In-Person & Virtual 7:00 PM High School Youth Group	15	16 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	17 11:45 AM Wonder Wednesdays 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom)	18 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	19	20
21 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 1:00 PM @New Pond Village 5:00 PM Middle School Youth Group 7:00PM High School Youth Group	22 Family Promise Hosting	23 Family Promise Hosting	24 Family Promise Hosting 9:15 AM Women's Spiritual Friendship Group 12:30 PM Prayer Chapel (Zoom)	25 Family Promise Host- ing 3:00 PM Tea and Check In	26	27 9 AM—2 PM Blood Drive in Kraft Hall Give Blood, Save a Life! 
28 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship In-Person & Virtual 11:00 Deacon's Welcome Gathering 1:00 PM @Fox Hill 5:00 PM MSYG 7:00PM HSYG	29	30				

BLOOD DRIVE AT THE DOVER CHURCH ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Please book an appointment:

- Call 1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767)
- Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: DOVER
- Scan the QR code:



Dover Community Blood Drive

The Dover Church

Kraft Hall
17 Springdale Ave
Dover, MA 02030

Saturday, September 27, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



THE DOVER CHURCH

P.O. Box 305 • Dover, MA 02030 • Tel: 508-785-0957 • Fax: 508-785-0957 • admin@thedoverchurch.org



Curious What It's Like to Be an Usher? Come See! Sunday, September 28 After Worship

If you've ever thought about helping out now and then, come to a short Welcome Gathering in the Sanctuary after worship on Sunday, September 28. The Deacons will be there to share what it's all about – no pressure, just friendly faces and helpful info.

Welcome Back Sunday is September 7

Start your September with joy, connection,
and community.

Whether you're returning or brand new,
we're excited to welcome you
back!



Join us for a special
Welcome Back Sun-
day service that
marks the beginning
of a new program
year at
The Dover Church



THE DOVER CHURCH

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